Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2009

Paul Ziemer, Chair
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health
4676 Columbia Parkway, MS: C-46
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Dr. Ziemer:

We write you today to request that the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health hold one of its upcoming meetings in Buffalo, New York, to discuss problems with the use of surrogate data in the dose reconstruction processes for claimants at the Bethlehem Steel site, and the merits of the Bethlehem Steel Claimants Action Group Special Exposure Cohort application before the Board.

As you may know, we recently introduced legislation, H.R. 2114 and S. 916, the Ed Walker Memorial Act for Improvements to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. This legislation echoes the application of the Bethlehem Steel Claimants Action Group for designation as a Special Exposure Cohort. It is our contention that these workers should be classified into a Special Exposure Cohort because of the extreme paucity of data to accurately access the causation link between the ailments suffered by the nuclear workers and their exposure to them.

The Bethlehem Steel claimants and their families have been dealing with the results of this extremely harmful exposure to radioactive particles for decades. Now they have been dealing with the frustrating and convoluted processes related to the implementation of the EEOICP for nearly ten years. In order to ensure that the federal government treats these families with fairness, we urge the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health to come to Buffalo and hear first-hand the difficulties families have had with the processes as these exist, and understand arguments for why the Bethlehem Steel Claimants Action Group Special Exposure Cohort petition is meritorious.
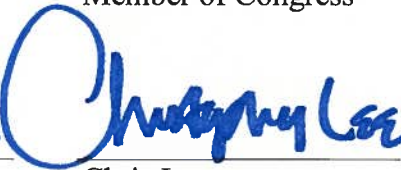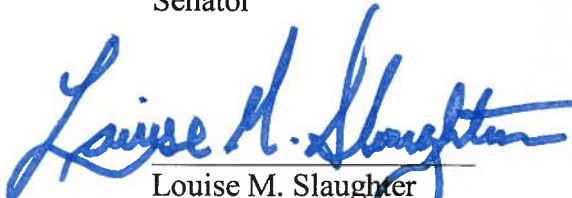
Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Eric Massa
Member of Congress

Chris Lee
Member of Congress